

Appn. No. 09/988,396
Amd. dated October 3, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 20, 2003

REMARKS

The Official Action of June 20, 2003, has been carefully reviewed. The claims in the application are now only allowed claims 1-8. Accordingly, the present application should now be in condition for formal allowance.

Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119 is noted.

As regards the restriction requirement, Applicants confirm the oral election of claims 1-8. Applicants now accept that the inventions are patentably distinct from one another, i.e. each is patentable over the other. In other words, each is *prima facie* nonobvious from the other. Applicants are pursuing the apparatus invention in a divisional application.

The title has been amended as required.

All the pending claims, namely claims 1-8, have been allowed. Applicants accordingly understand that these claims are deemed by the PTO to define novel and unobvious subject matter under §§102 and 103, and also meet all the other statutory and other requirements for patentability.

The prior art documents of record and not relied upon have been noted, along with the implication that such

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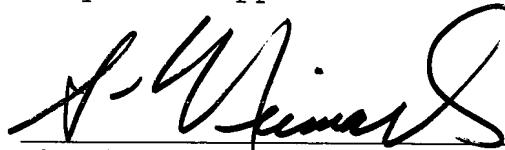
documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent to warrant their application against any of applicant's claims.

All issues raised in the Office Action having been resolved, the present application should now be in condition for formal allowance. Such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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